

## **April 22, 2009 - Special Town Council Meeting**

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Middletown Administration Building, Lower Level, Oliphant Lane, Middletown, Rhode Island on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.**

**Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding**

**Vice Chairman Richard Cambra**

**Councillor Frank A. Bozyan**

**Councillor M. Theresa Santos**

**Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.**

**Councillor Robert J. Sylvia**

**Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present**

**POSTED – April 15, 2009**

**Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk**

**Town of Middletown**

**Town Hall – 350 East Main Road**

**Middletown, Rhode Island 02842**

**Dear Mrs. Marshall:**

**Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:**

**Joint Meeting with School Committee – School Budget and matters related thereto**

**Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. at the School Administration Building, Oliphant School, Lower Level, Oliphant Lane, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.**

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**Christopher T. Semonelli,**

**President**

**Middletown Town Council**

**CC:**

**Town Council**

**Public Library**

**Finance Director**

**Town Administrator**

**Town Solicitor**

**School Department**

**Human Resource Manager**

**This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.**

**Present, representing the School Department were Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano, Business Manager Catherine McLeish, Director of Facilities Edward Collins, School Committee Chair Michael Crowley, Vice Chair Theresa Spengler, members Kellie DiPalma, Liana Ferreira Fenton and William R. O'Connell.**

**Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay and Accounting Manager Deborah Barrett.**

**Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger addressed the Council reviewing the following power point presentation, showing the process used by the School Committee to arrive at the 4.75% budget request entered here:**

**Ms. Kraeger reviewed the following district staffing and enrollment**

**reports entered here:**

**Ms. Kraeger also reviewed the Middletown Public School, School District Redesign Recommendations Phase I and Phase II which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.**

**School Committee Chair Michael Crowley noted that the School Department began the budget process in December 2008. It has been a difficult budget, current revenue columns were less than last year, and the budget was not based upon actual numbers because it is unknown what state aid will be. The committee tried to prepare a conservative budget.**

**Councillor Sylvia questioned the Budget Reductions ranked by priority list from the School Committee, Budget Subcommittee and Administration. Mr. Sylvia questioned if the School Committee would follow the list, if the school budget is not fully funded.**

**Councillor Silveira expressed concern with economic times and the request of a 4.75% budget increase.**

**Councillor VonVillas explained that the Council is in favor of a 2% budget increase. Ms. VonVillas noted her love for the Middletown school system, support for not eliminating all day kindergarten, concern for eliminating programs and no salary freezes indicated within the proposed budget.**

**Vice Chairman Cambra left the meeting at 7:05 PM.**

**Discussion centered around the promotion of the school system by the Middletown Economic Development Committee and a 2% budget increase.**

**Council President Semonelli requested the School Committee to review the submitted proposed budget and make additional changes for a 2% budget increase.**

**On motion of Councillor Silveira, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

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**Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC**

**Council Clerk**